

First Record of Leach's Storm-Petrel, *Oceanodroma leucorhoa*, in Western Australia.—On Sunday morning, April 16, 1978 I visited Pelican Point. However instead of the array of waders I hoped to see I was surprised to find a dead storm-petrel. It had been washed up on the southern side of the Point and was lying on the sand midway between the end of the Point and the parking area. It may have been a victim of the aftermath of the unusual Cyclone Alby of April 4.

The remains were identified by Dr. D. L. Serventy and Dr. G. M. Storr as Leach's Storm-Petrel, *Oceanodroma leucorhoa*, belonging to the nominate race of the North Atlantic and far north Pacific, which is characterised by large size and all-white rump. The specimen was preserved as a mummy, registered in the Western Australia Museum collections as A15395.

The following measurements, in millimetres, were taken by Dr. Serventy: wing, 160; tail, outermost feather 87, innermost 73; tarsus, 24.9; middle toe and claw, 25; culmen, 15.8. The claws were sharp.

This is the first record of this northern hemisphere species from Western Australia. The only previously recorded specimen from Australia was a beach-washed bird found at Cutting in western Victoria in July 1965 and now in the National Museum, Melbourne. In New Zealand a bird was found near Auckland in August 1922.

—LOLA BROADHURST, Beverley.

The Nest of the Western Bower-bird (*Chlamydera guttata*).—In Serventy and Whittell's *Birds of Western Australia* it is stated that there is only one published description of a nest of this species from Western Australia, one found by F. Lawson Whitlock near Wiluna in 1909. Though it is likely that other nests have since been found by naturalists it appears that there are still no published accounts since Whitlock's description. To remedy the situation, I describe three nests I found in the Cape Range in August 1977, as these differ in material respects from Whitlock's Wiluna nest. The three nests were found in gullies in the range. Some nests closely resembled Pied Butcher-bird nests.

(a) A loose shallow bowl made of dry vine tendrils and odd twigs, projecting untidily from its base. The egg cavity was about 150 mm in external diameter, 110 mm in internal diameter by c. 50 mm in depth. This cavity was lined with odd stalks of *Triodia* and finer vine tendrils. The two eggs were visible through the fabric when viewed from below. The nest was built 2 m above the ground on a near horizontal three-pronged fork of a fairly open *Acacia*. A bower, in use, was about 250 m east of the nest site.

(b) A more firmly constructed bowl-shaped nest of fine dry *Acacia* phyllodes and fine tendrils built on a foundation of eucalypt twigs, projecting from the base and rising above the egg cavity. Its external diameter was 170 mm, internal diameter 130 mm, and the depth c. 50 mm. The nest was built in a Batwing Coral Tree (*Erythrina vespertilio*) slightly less than 2 m above ground. It contained two eggs, not visible through the fabric. I searched for a bower but with no success.

(c) A neat bowl constructed entirely of dry vine tendrils within a mass of growing creeper among the branches of a Bloodwood. External diameter 130 mm, internal diameter of egg cavity 90 mm and with a depth of 60 mm. It also contained two eggs. The nest was about 4 m above ground. No bower was noticed and time prevented a closer search.

In each case old nests of previous seasons were seen in close proximity, the furthest being about 50 m from the active nest. In one instance there were 12 nests within a radius of 15 m.

—N. KOLICHIS, Osborne Park.